

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enhancing an expression of an exogenous polynucleotide sequence in a plant, comprising administering to the plant a virus selected capable of suppressing gene silencing in said plant, thereby enhancing the expression of the exogenous polynucleotide sequence in said plant.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is a systemically infectious virus.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is an avirulent virus.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is a mechanically transmitted virus

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said administering is effected by using an inoculation gun.

6. A method of identifying a gene silencing agent, comprising:

- (a) inoculating a plurality of transgenic plants with a plurality of virus isolates or strains thereby generating a plurality of infected plants; and
- (b) selecting a plant from said infected plants which exhibits a substantially higher level of exogenous polynucleotide sequence expression than a non-infected similar transgenic plant, thereby identifying the virus isolate or strain infecting said plant as the gene silencing agent.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein step (a) further includes selecting plants which do not exhibit severe symptoms.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein step (a) is effected by administering said virus isolates or strains suspended in a buffer solution supplemented with an abrasive material onto foliage of said transgenic plants.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said symptoms are selected from the group consisting of mosaic, ring spots, leaf roll, yellowing, streaking, pox formation, tumor formation, pitting and stunting.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said exogenous polynucleotide sequence expression is quantified by an exogenous polynucleotide sequence transcribed mRNA level.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein said exogenous polynucleotide sequence expression is quantified by said exogenous polynucleotide sequence encoded polypeptide level.

12. A method of producing a molecule of interest, comprising:
- (a) administering to a plant a virus selected capable of suppressing gene silencing in said plant; and
 - (b) extracting the molecule of interest being expressed in said plant, thereby producing said molecule of interest.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said molecule of interest is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a vaccine, a therapeutic polypeptide, an industrial enzyme and a biopolymer.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said molecule of interest is a polypeptide capable of conferring resistance or tolerance to biotic stress.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said molecule of interest is a polypeptide capable of conferring resistance or tolerance to abiotic stress.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein said molecule of interest is a nutritionally valuable polypeptide.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein said virus is a systemically infectious virus.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein said virus is an avirulent virus.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein said virus is a mechanically transmitted virus

20. The method of claim 12, wherein said administering is effected by using an inoculation gun.

21. An article-of-manufacturing, comprising a container including a virus selected capable of suppressing gene silencing in a plant, and a packaging material identifying said virus for use in innoculating said plant.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said virus is a systemically infectious virus.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said virus is an avirulent virus.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein said virus is a mechanically transmitted virus.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein said virus is lyophilized.